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PRODUCTION OF APPLES TO EXPAND IN NEXT 5 YEARS

CURRENT SERIAL RECORDS

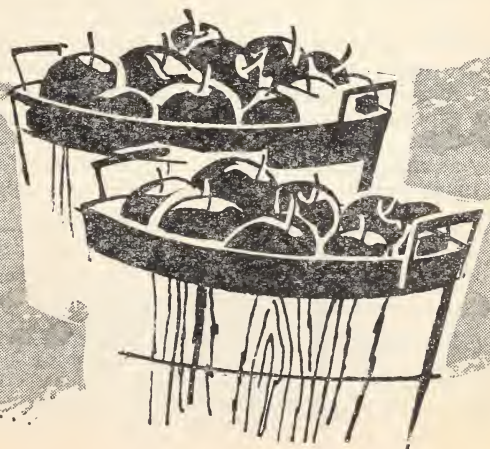
Apple production in the United States is expected to increase for the next 5 years or more, due mainly to the many young trees planted during the 1950's and 1960's. This outlook is based on fruit tree censuses and the probability of continued heavy planting.

Also, yields per tree are expected to increase because of improved varieties and better cultural methods. Enlarged surface of bearing trees is yet another factor. Increases from these factors are expected to be more than enough to

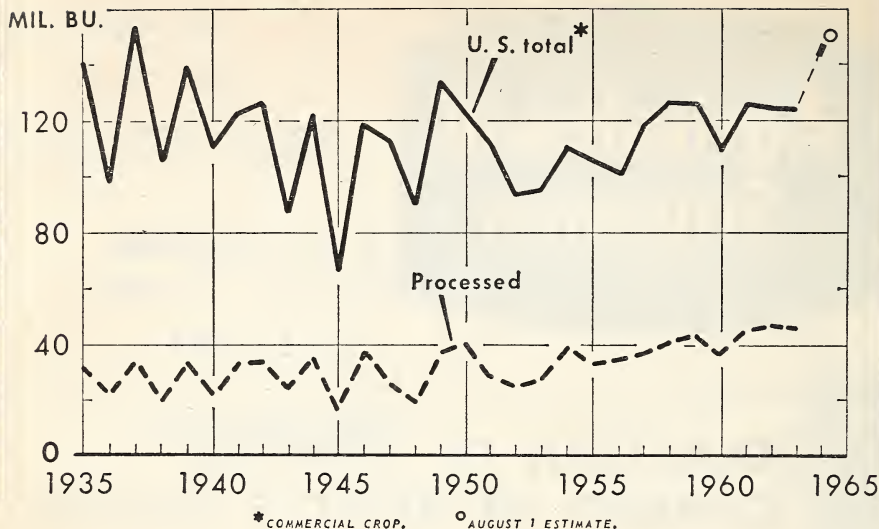
offset declining production of old trees and losses through tree removals.

Upward trends in production over the next 5 to 10 years seem probable in several important apple States, especially Washington, New York, Michigan, and some of the Appalachian States. For Oregon and Idaho, heavy plantings during recent years also point to substantial production increases.

The Red Delicious variety was one of the most popular among recent apple trees planted. Other leading varieties



APPLE PRODUCTION



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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included the Golden Delicious, Rome Beauty, and York, Jonathan, McIntosh, and Stayman. Recent plantings of Standard Delicious, a favorite for many years, have been light.

The planting of substantial numbers of dwarf-type apple trees in some States in recent years constitutes a relatively new development in the apple industry. Per acre potentials of dwarf and semidwarf trees are expected to be somewhat greater than for standard types.

The volume of U.S. apples marketed fresh trended downward from 1935 to 1956 and then increased with rising production and expanding population. Since 1935 farm home use of apples decreased steadily as small orchards disappeared from many farms.

Volume processed increased slowly from 1935 to 1955, then trended upward more rapidly. As a percentage of total sales, the volume processed increased from about 25 percent in 1935, to 35 percent in 1950, and to 38 percent in 1963.

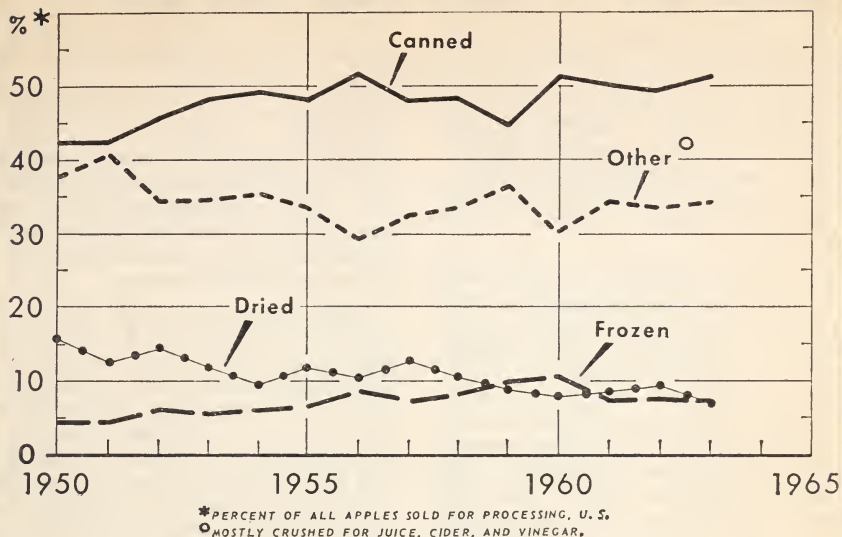
The percentage of sales of apples for all types of processing in recent years has been the highest for California and lowest for Washington.

Sharp increases in packs of apple products occurred especially in output of canned applesauce and applejuice, and frozen apple slices and applesauce. Output of canned apple slices did not change greatly while that of dried apples declined. Canned applesauce led by far all other apple products, on the basis of fresh apples required for packs.

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MAJOR USES OF APPLES PROCESSED



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Consumption of fresh apples tended to decline between 1950 and 1963. Among processed items, consumption of canned applesauce and applejuice about doubled, while that of frozen apples and applesauce increased less sharply. Consumption of canned apple slices and dried apples declined.

Apple crops that are substantially larger than those of recent years are likely to result in the need to expand existing market outlets as well as to develop new outlets.

Perhaps the largest gain in apple use will occur through processing. Among processed items, prospects appear the best for canned applesauce and applejuice, which have gained sharply in popularity in recent years. Per capita use of canned and frozen apple slices, mainly in pies and other bakery goods,

probably will be maintained at least at their current levels.

Large supplies of apples would be favorable to increased exports, especially in years of light crops in usual importing countries such as Canada and Western Europe. Recent plantings in Western Europe have been heavy to dessert or fresh market varieties, the kind comprising U.S. exports. This will tend to limit U.S. exports. However, exports may be maintained at about the volume of recent years, which comprised 2 to 4 percent of production.

Per capita consumption of fresh and processed apples combined can be expected to increase somewhat. Increased use per person of the steadily growing U.S. population would mean a substantial gain in total consumption.

Ben H. Pubols
 Economic Research Service



FEED GRAIN SUPPLY DOWN; SMALLER CROP EXPECTED

The supply of feed grains for 1964-65 will total about 210 million tons on the basis of September 1 prospects, 9 million tons less than in 1963-64 and 8 million below 1958-62 average. While the indicated production is 11 percent below the 1963 crop, this is offset in part by a prospective increase in carryover stocks to around 70 million tons.

Feed grain production in 1964 will total about 139 million tons, 16 million tons less than the 1963 output, if September 1 indications are realized. Smaller production this year is the result of a further reduction in acreage—down 5 percent from 1963—and a drop in yield per acre—down 6 percent based on September 1 prospects. The planted acreage of each of the feed grains was reduced from last year—corn 4 percent, oats 7 percent, barley 11 percent and sorghums 4 percent.

The 1964 corn crop was estimated in September at 3,640 million bushels, 442 million less than the record 1963 crop, and slightly below the 1958-62 average. The overall reduction in the Nation's corn crop is expected to be offset in part by an increase in carryover. The total corn supply for 1964-65, based on these early prospects would be 5,191 million bushels or 208 million less than the 1963-64 supply.

The reduction in the corn crop this year was due to both smaller acreage and lower yield. The corn acreage to be harvested in 1964 is estimated at 58.4 million acres, 2.3 million less than last year and 13.5 million below the 1959 and 1960 average—the base for the Feed Grain Program. Yield was indicated in September at 62.3 bushels per acre, 7 percent below the 1963 yield. Farmers signed up to divert 23.0 million acres to soil conserving uses under

the 1964 Feed Grain Program, 5.3 million more than was signed up in 1963.

The total supply of sorghum grain for 1964-65 is estimated, on the basis of September 1 prospects, at 1,157 million bushels, 7 percent less than in 1963-64, but 5 percent above the 1958-62 average. The sorghum grain crop, estimated at 497 million bushels, is 15 percent smaller than in 1963 and 9 percent below the 1958-62 average.

Disappearance of feed grains has declined during the past 2 years as a result of a small reduction in the number of grain-consuming livestock and slight drop in the rate of feeding per animal unit. A further reduction in grain-consuming livestock is in prospect for 1964-65. If the current feeding rate is maintained, total disappearance in 1964-65 would be slightly below the 1963-64 level of 149 million tons.

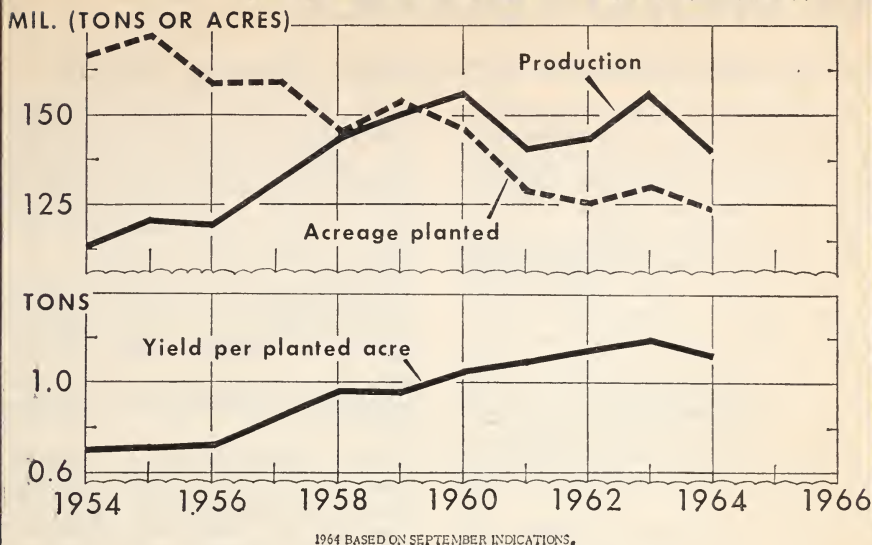
Feed grain prices advanced seasonally from last November to June 1964, then declined about 4 percent from June to August. While prices last fall and winter were generally above a year earlier, prices during the summer averaged about 3 percent lower than a year earlier. Lower prices this summer than last, especially for corn, resulted from much larger "free" supplies and the lower 1963 loan rate.

Feed grain prices in 1964-65 will be strengthened by higher loan rates and smaller feed grain supplies than in 1963-64. The 1964 loan rates for corn, barley, and grain sorghum are a little higher than in 1963, while the price-support payments are a little lower.

Provisions for CCC sales of feed grain at not less than the loan rate plus carrying charges also will apply in the 1964-1965 marketing year. This was



FEED GRAIN ACREAGE AND PRODUCTION



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NEG. ERS 2722-64 (9) ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE

a price-strengthening factor in 1963-64 when sales of feed grains by CCC dropped sharply from the high level of the 2 previous years.

The quantity of wheat to be fed to livestock in 1964-65 is expected to be somewhat larger than in other recent years as a result of the new provisions of the 1964 Wheat Program. The quantity fed, however, will be limited by the "free" supply of wheat available for feeding.

The wide price gap between livestock and feed that prevailed during most of the period from 1958 through 1962 was narrowed during the past 2 years. The general decline in livestock prices in relation to feed prices brought most of the livestock feed price ratios below average during the 1963-64 feeding year. The decline in livestock prices during the past 2 years has been most pronounced for cattle and hogs.

Disappearance of feed grain in April-June amounted to about 35 million tons or about the same as in that quarter of

1963, which was a record. Domestic disappearance did not decline as much this year from the second to third quarter as in 1962-63, and April-June domestic use was 2 percent higher than a year earlier.

Stocks of the four feed grains on July 1 totaled about 94 million tons, 7 million more than on that date last year. Stocks under loan and owned by CCC total 62.5 million tons, slightly less than a year earlier. "Free" stocks totaling 31.4 million tons were nearly 8 million more than a year earlier.

Exports of feed grains in the current marketing year are expected to exceed the high level of 1961-62 and 1962-63. During October-July 15.6 million tons were exported, a record for that period and 9 percent larger than in the corresponding period last year. For the entire feeding year, total feed grain exports are expected to reach a record high of about 18 million tons.

Malcolm Clough
Economic Research Service

UREA INCREASES RAPIDLY AS PROTEIN SOURCE

Feed Concentrate for Cattle, Sheep, Goats

Use of urea as a source of protein in livestock rations has expanded rapidly in recent years. Its chief advantage is that it provides a low cost source of protein for cattle and sheep.

Last year 142,000 tons of urea (42 percent nitrogen basis) was sold for use in livestock feed, more than twice the quantity sold 7 years earlier. On a protein basis, this would be equivalent to about 760,000 tons of 44 percent oilseed meal. During the 1962-63 feeding year urea accounted for about 5 percent of all high protein feed consumed by livestock and poultry and about 14 percent of the protein used in cattle and sheep feeds.

In recent years about 12 percent of U.S. urea production has been used for livestock feed, 80 percent for fertilizer use, and 8 percent for production of plastics and other industrial products.

Feeding of urea is limited to those animals that have ruminant digestive tracts—cattle, sheep, and goats. Supported by adequate quantities of cereal or carbohydrate-base concentrates and roughages, the nitrogen from urea is converted to usable proteins through bacterial activity in the rumen.

Because urea alone contains no feed energy, carbohydrates are required to supply energy as the urea is broken down to release ammonia. The ammonia is either used by bacteria or absorbed into the animal's bloodstream. Cereal grains or molasses are generally used as sources of carbohydrates.

The 142,000 tons of urea sold for livestock feed in 1963 (42 percent nitrogen basis), would be equivalent to approximately 760,000 tons of 44 percent protein soybean meal. A pound of feed

urea of 42 percent nitrogen is potentially equivalent to 2.62 pounds of protein. Assuming 90 percent is directly utilized by the animal, this would be equal to about 5.36 pounds of oilseed meal or other protein feed carrying a protein content of 44 percent.

The quantity of protein feed fed to all cattle and sheep has trended upward sharply in recent years. The 5.6 million tons fed in October 1962–September 1963 was 8 percent more than a year earlier and about 50 percent more than 7 years earlier.

Sales of feed-grade urea have increased at a faster rate than other high protein feeds consumed by cattle and sheep. In 1963, feed urea—in terms of 44 percent protein equivalent—was more than 13 percent of the oilmeal and grain proteins consumed by cattle and sheep, compared with 9 percent in 1956. The expansion in beef cattle feedlot operations and increased dairy cow feeding rates have contributed to more protein feeding. The increase in sales of feed urea also has been influenced by the rise in sales of commercially prepared beef and dairy cattle feeds.

The chief advantage of urea appears to be in preparing low cost rations during periods when prices of natural proteins are high in relation to prices of cattle, sheep, and dairy products. Under such conditions significant savings may be derived by the use of a urea-grain mixture to replace portions of a more costly natural high protein feed ingredient. However, a lower cost urea ration does not necessarily justify its use instead of a ration containing all natural proteins. Cost per unit of production of livestock and livestock products must also be reduced.



Wholesale prices of urea have been very stable during the past 4 years—averaging \$95 to \$100 per ton for bagged 42 percent feed grade delivered from plants located east of the Rockies.

In 1951-52, prices of soybean meal or cottonseed meal were high in relation to the price of corn-urea mixture. Soybean meal at Chicago averaged \$17.25 per ton more than a corn-urea mixture. By 1955-56 the difference dropped to \$4.20 per ton.

During the past 3 years soybean meal prices increased more than corn-urea prices. In 1960-61 soybean meal cost \$13.90 per ton more than corn-urea and increased to \$22.00 in 1962-63. During

October-December 1963 this difference averaged \$26.70 per ton. Because of rising corn prices and declining soybean meal prices since January of this year, the difference dropped to an average of \$14.40 per ton in May-August.

Annual sales of urea have increased consistently in the past 7 years. The sales apparently have not been materially influenced by grain-urea and oil-meal price relationships. Comparisons indicate that factors other than prices also have influenced urea feeding during this period.

Jack S. Ross
Economic Research Service

1964 TURKEY CROP UP 6 PERCENT; HEAVY WHITES, LIGHT BREEDS, UP

The 1964 turkey crop is expected to total 98.7 million birds, 6 percent more than last year. The number of heavy white breed turkeys being raised is up 20 percent, light breeds up 14 percent, and bronze and other heavy breeds down 5 percent.

Increased production is expected in all regions of the country except the West. Increases are 20 percent in the South Atlantic, 10 percent in the South Central, 7 percent in the West North Central, 3 percent in the North Atlantic, and 2 percent in the East North Central. The West is expected to have a 2-percent decrease.

Heavy breed turkeys raised this year are expected to total 87.7 million compared with 83.7 million last year. Heavy breeds are up 17 percent in the South Atlantic region, 9 percent in the South Central, 8 percent in the West North Central, and 4 percent in the East North Central. Decreases are 4 percent in the West and 3 percent in the North Atlantic.

The heavy white turkey crop of 38.7 million is 44 percent of all heavies compared with 38 percent last year. Increased heavy white production is indicated in all regions except the North Atlantic. Increases are 89 percent in the South Central, 25 percent in the South Atlantic, 20 percent in the West, 15 percent in the West North Central, and 11 percent in the East North Cen-

tral. Heavy white production in the North Atlantic shows a 1-percent decrease.

The number of other heavy breed turkeys raised, at 49.0 million birds, is 5 percent below the 51.5 million raised in 1963. Increases in other heavies are 9 percent in the South Atlantic Region, and 3 percent in the West North Central, 10 percent in the East North Central, 9 percent in the West and 5 percent in the North Atlantic.

Production of light breed turkeys is estimated at 11.0 million compared with 9.7 million last year. Increases are 94 percent in the North Atlantic States, 59 percent in the West, and 26 percent in both the South Atlantic and South Central. Decreases are 9 percent in the East North Central and 4 percent in the West North Central.

In terms of numbers, California will lead the Nation with 15.6 million turkeys in 1964, followed by Minnesota with 15.3 million, Iowa with 8.2 million, Missouri with 6.5 million, and Wisconsin with 5.2 million.

Turkey poult hatch September 1963 through July 1964 was 5 percent above the same period a year earlier. The largest percentages increase was during the September 1963-January 1964 period when the hatch is usually small.

Robert E. Schooley
Statistical Reporting Service

outlook



Based on Information Available on October 2, 1964

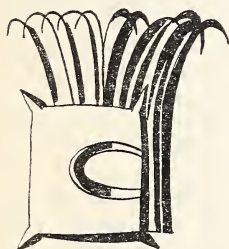


MILK PRODUCTION

Total milk production for 1964 is expected to be near the 125½ billion pounds indicated by production for the first 7 months of this year. This is somewhat below the record level of 126 billion produced in 1962.

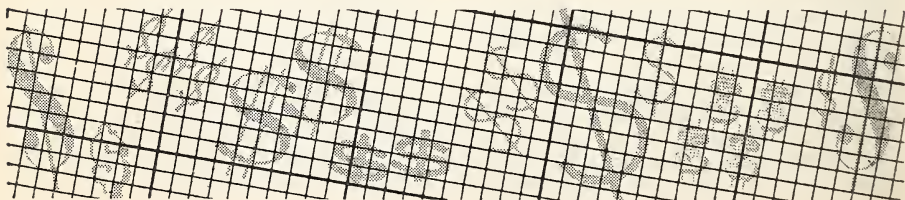
FRUIT

Supplies of most processed deciduous fruits are expected to be above year-earlier volumes by fall. Under the weight of sharply increased production, grower prices for some fruits have sagged below the relatively high 1963 levels. Continued strong consumer demand will contribute to increased usage and help sustain prices.



GRAIN FED LIVESTOCK

The number of grain-consuming livestock to be fed in 1964-65 is expected to decline slightly. The 1963-64 total was 170 million. A drop to 169 million is expected in 1964-65—much of this prospective drop is in hogs.



FEED GRAIN EXPORTS

Exports of feed grains in the current marketing year are expected to exceed the high levels of 1961-62 and 1962-63. During the October-July period exports set a new record, 14.2 million tons, 9 percent larger than during the corresponding period a year earlier.

FATS AND OILS

Output of edible fats and oils for 1964-65 is estimated at 14.8 billion pounds, 1 percent more than in the previous season. Production of butter and cottonseed oil is expected to be the same as the year before. Lard output may be down somewhat.

LIVESTOCK

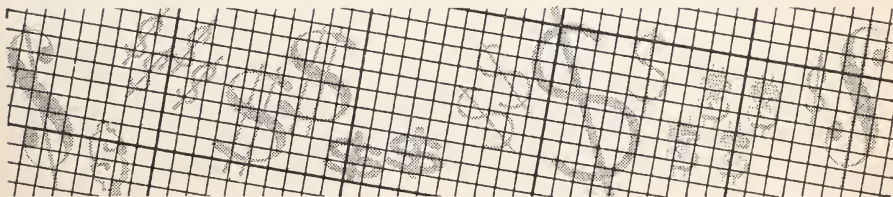
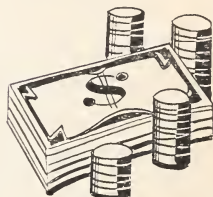
Although 1964 will set a record high for cattle slaughter and beef production, the number of cattle and calves on farms on January 1, 1965 will again be larger than a year earlier and will set a new record. However, the increase will be much smaller than in the past few years.

SOYBEAN PRICES

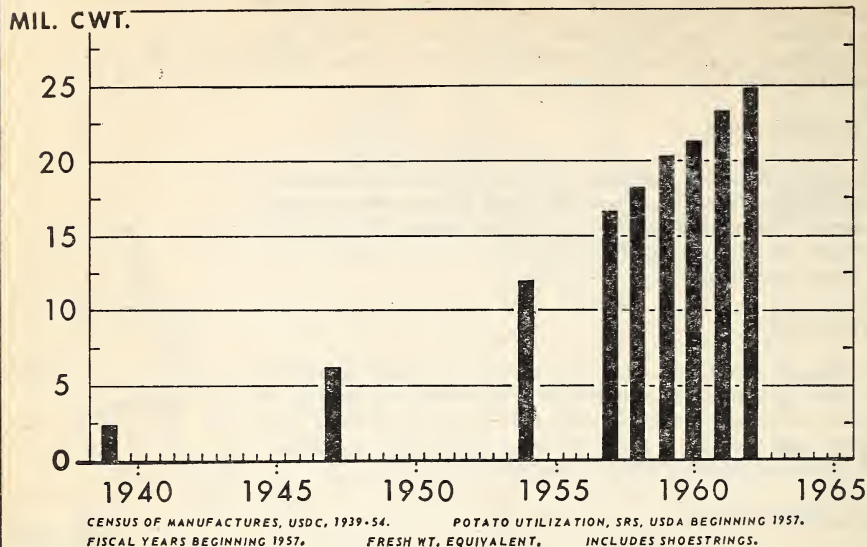
Prices to soybean growers during the heavy harvesting season this fall will average above the 1964 national support rate of \$2.25 per bushel. Last October-December, prices for the 1963 soybean crop averaged \$2.60 per bushel, 35 cents above the support price.

CITRUS

Florida packers' stocks of processed citrus are much smaller than a year ago and will continue to decrease seasonally until replenished from the new packs in the fall. Retail prices for processed citrus items remain at unusually high levels.



POTATOES USED FOR CHIPS



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NEG. ERS 2985-64 (7) ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE

Striking changes have occurred in the market outlet pattern for potatoes during the past 25 years. Of the more important innovations, use of potatoes in the production of chips has increased tenfold with accompanying per capita consumption now more than seven times larger than in 1939. In recent years, per capita consumption of potato chips has continued to increase. The Nation's population has been growing at an annual average rate of 1.6 percent. The use of potatoes in the production of chips during the same period rose annually, 10 percent.

Peanut Stocks

Approximately 409 million pounds of peanuts on an equivalent farmers' stock basis were stored in mills, warehouses, and commercial facilities on July 31 of this year. End-of-season stocks were 3 percent more than a year earlier.

Holdings on July 31, 1964, comprised 11 million pounds of farmers' stock, 380 million pounds of shelled edibles, and 18 million pounds of roasting stock both on an equivalent farmers' basis.

Carryover a year earlier was made up of 14 million pounds of farmers' stock, and on an equivalent farmers' basis, 367 million pounds of shelled edibles

and 16 million pounds of roasting stock.

On an actual weight basis, there were 245 million pounds of shelled edibles in storage on July 31 of this year compared with 237 million a year earlier.

This year's shelled edible holdings included a CCC inventory of 59.0 million pounds, comprising 14.2 million pounds of number 2 Runners and 4.5 million pounds of number 2 Spanish. Also included in the CCC inventory were 10.0 million pounds of extra large Virginias, 12.4 million of medium Virginias, 0.5 million of number 1 Virginias, 7.6 million of number 2 Virginias, and 9.8 million pounds of mixed and sheller run Virginias.

Robert Schulte
Statistical Reporting Service

Shorn Wool Incentive Level Remains At 62 Cents for 1965 Marketing Year

The shorn wool incentive level for the 1965 marketing year is 62 cents per pound, grease basis—the same as during the first 10 years of the program. The incentive level is 78 percent of the June 1964 parity price of 79.5 cents per pound for shorn wool. The 1965 marketing year runs from January 1, 1965, through December 31, 1965.

The wool incentive program, originally authorized by the National Wool Act of 1954, was extended for the second time by the Agricultural Act of 1961 to cover marketings through March 31, 1966. This legislation, directs the Secretary of Agriculture to consider prices paid and other costs affecting sheep production that will encourage the annual production of 300 million pounds of shorn wool.

The law also limits the cumulative

payments at any one time to 70 percent of the duties collected on imports of raw wool and wool manufactures since January 1, 1953, to the same date.

Payment to producers during 1965 will be made on the same basis as in the current year. Shorn wool payments will be equal to a percentage of each producer's cash returns from wool sales. The percentage will be that required to raise the national average price received by all producers for shorn wool up to the incentive price of 62 cents per pound.

The mohair support price for 1965 has been established at 72 cents per pound, grease basis, the same as in 1964. This price is 66 percent of the June 1964 parity price of \$1.08 per pound.

Charles E. Raymond
Economic Research Service

Here's How to figure the amount of ear corn in a crib on a shelled basis:

Multiply the volume in cubic feet by 4/9 for dry corn, 4/10 for new corn, and 4/11 for damp corn.

For a rectangular crib 18 feet long and 12 feet wide, filled with new ear corn to an average (leveled) depth of 8 feet, the calculation is:

$$4/10 \times 18 \times 12 \times 8 = 691 \text{ bushels}$$

For a round crib (volume = $0.7854 \times \text{diameter} \times \text{diameter} \times \text{average depth}$) 10 feet in diameter filled with dry ear corn to an average depth of 6.5 feet, the solution is:

$$4/9 \times 0.7854 \times 10 \times 10 \times 6.5 = 227 \text{ bushels}$$

For a more precise measure, you can deduct for the studding in the crib. The number of bushels to be deducted is equal to:

$$\text{number of studs} \times \text{depth} \times \text{figure from table}$$

Studs	Multiply by	
	Grain	Ear corn (shelled basis)
2 × 4 inches	0.044	0.022
2 × 6 inches	0.067	0.033
2 × 8 inches	0.089	0.044

PRODUCTION OF HIDES IN 1964 UP 8 PERCENT OVER LAST YEAR

Cattle slaughter in 1964 is expected to yield about 30.5 million hides—about 8 percent more than in the previous year. Under ordinary circumstances finding a ready market for the large increase in hide production would be difficult, but a strong export situation exists.

During the first half of this year cattle hide exports totaled an estimated 5.3 million pieces, an increase of 48 percent over the first 6 months of 1963. Japan and Western Europe have been the top buyers this year.

Over the years Argentina has been our big competitor for the world cattle hide and trade with annual exports running about 12 million pieces. Cattle slaughter has decreased, apparently because of herd rebuilding. Recent indications are that Argentina will export approximately 9.0 million hides. Lower hide exports from that country are expected to continue for the next few years.

If the United States slaughters 30.5 million head this year and domestic hide requirements remain about the same as in previous years, 20 million pieces, the remaining 10.5 million hides will find their way into export channels.

Usually U.S. hide exports during the first half of the year are about 40 percent of the yearly total. However, this first half year, exports likely will account for a larger percentage of the total. Hide exports were 5.3 million pieces during the first half of this year and in the second half are expected to be about 5 million.

Domestic use of cattle hides in leather shoes, accounts for more than 80 percent of all leather used, remaining at about the same level in 1964

as in 1963. However, trade sources are predicting a stronger market demand for leather shoe production during the second half of the year. Current estimates indicate that leather shoe production will be a little above the 591 million pairs marketed in 1963.

The percentage of women's shoes made with leather has been declining by about 0.5 percent a year over the past 4 years. In the same period the percentage of men's shoes made of leather increased by the same percentage.

Women's shoes outsell men's shoes by about 2.5 to 1. However, men's shoes use about 2.5 square feet of leather per pair compared with 1.5 for a pair of women's shoes.

Despite an increasing number of synthetic leatherlike materials, there are several favorable aspects in the current domestic leather situation. Sole leather production is up, there is an increase in finished leather exports, and leather shoes imports are off from 1963 rates.

Reports from the New York Leather Show indicate an above-average buyer response for leather. Apparently the new colors and finishes for leather helped increase buyer response.

Although leather consumption is currently strong and hide exports are at a record rate, hide prices have not responded appreciably.

Average hide prices during the first half of 1964 were 12.4 cents for light native cowhides, 6.9 cents for country hides (extremes), and 8.6 cents for heavy native steers. This was about 2 to 4 cents per pound less than hide prices for the same period in 1963 but higher than hide prices last winter.



Hide prices usually follow a seasonal pattern. Generally, hide prices are highest during the summer months, decline slightly during the third quarter of the year, and reach a low in the winter months. Much of this seasonal fluctuation is the result of hide quality—summer hides are higher quality than winter hides.

For the past 10 years prices of light native cowhides have been highest in the second quarter and have fallen by 0.5 cent in the third quarter, and an additional cent in the fourth quarter. Other hide prices have followed approximately the same pattern. The same seasonal pattern is expected to repeat this year. Thus, slightly lower hide prices can be expected near the end of this year.

Calf slaughter in the first half of 1964 was 3.4 million head, 1 percent below a year earlier. The number of calves slaughtered has been trending down-

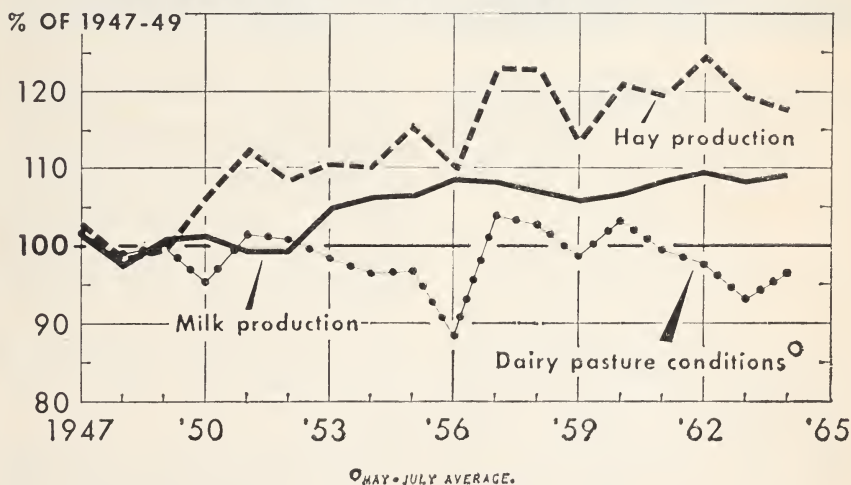
ward over the past 10 years. Although calfskin prices have varied widely from time to time, they are expected to remain near 36 cents per pound for the remainder of this year.

The market for fleshed hides has been strong, and several packers and dealers have reported receiving premium prices for fleshed and demanured hides. This was especially true during the spring months when winter hides were being marketed. The use of fleshing and demanuring is continuing to increase. Trade sources indicate several new fleshing operations will be in production this fall.

The Economic Research Service has started a broad research project to study possible changes in hide and leather marketing practices and their effect on hide and leather prices.

John W. Thompson
Economic Research Service

PRODUCTION OF MILK AND HAY AND PASTURE CONDITIONS



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NEG. ERS 3025-64 (8) ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE

Dry weather affected pasture conditions and hay supplies in 1962, 1963, and 1964 and lowered prospective milk production in each year. However, increased feeding of grain and concentrates caused output per cow to gain and maintained total milk output at high levels.

Agricultural Census Set for November



You'll be called on to make out an additional report in November—the *1964 Census of Agriculture*. It will be longer than the monthly Crop Report, covering almost every phase of your farming activity and your family's work off the farm.

Every farmer and rancher will receive from the U.S. Census Bureau, a census form, and the Census Act requires him to fill it out. The same law guarantees that his information will be kept confidential and will be used only for statistics.

You will receive your census form by mail, probably early in November. A week or two later a Census enumerator will visit you, make sure all the questions are answered, help you if you need help, and take away your questionnaire.

We expect to receive reports on results of the census county by county

beginning next April, bringing answers to some big and important questions.

Just in case you're wondering if the census is duplicating USDA's reporting system of which you and other crop reporters are a part, let me say the census of all farms helps to make your reports more meaningful. The two agencies have operated together helpfully for 125 years.

Members of USDA's Crop Reporting Board helped select the questions you will be asked in the census; so did spokesmen for the leading farm organizations.

We hope crop reporters everywhere will take the lead in persuading their neighbors that the 1964 Census of Agriculture is valuable and important. Each one of us has a stake in helping to make the census complete and accurate.

Glenn D. Simpson, *Chairman
Crop Reporting Board*

A new packaging method for flue-cured tobacco that might save the Nation's growers millions of dollars a year is described in a new USDA report.

Tests revealed farmers can cut about 100 hours per acre from the time usually taken to prepare the product for market. Adopted regionally, the new method could eliminate about 6 million man-days of work and save growers some \$36 million a year, the report states.

Key features of the new method are the use of a 38- by 38-inch wooden frame during packing and a knitted paper sheet to wrap the tobacco. Use of the frame results in a square package of loose leaves. The tobacco is wrapped in the paper sheet when the frame is removed. The paper covering, which replaces the customary burlap or cotton, stays with the tobacco all the way to the processing plant.

The new packaging method keeps the leaves straight-laid and eliminates tangling of leaves and broken mid-ribs as the tobacco passes through the auction rooms and on to processing plants. It saves labor at the warehouse because the tobacco does not need to be put into warehouse baskets before sale and back into sheets after sale.

Auctioneers and processors also can be aided because the bales of straight-laid loose leaves can be inspected rapidly and loaded easily onto conveyors, the report suggests.

Packing frames used in the new method are easily and inexpensively constructed. Only two frames would be needed on the average farm growing 3 to 5 acres of tobacco.

The new bales, square-cornered to conserve storage and transportation space, could bring American flue-cured tobacco closer into line with the packaging of our fast-growing foreign competitors, the report states.

Single copies of *Developing and Market Testing an Improved Tobacco Package*, ERS-189, are available from the Division of Information, Office of Management Services, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C., 20250.

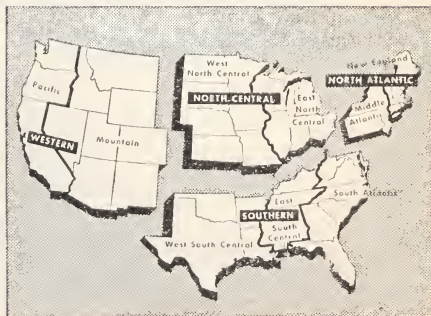
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